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Approved For Release 2001/03/05 : CIA-RDP82-00457R0019007

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Formation of SED Control Commission

DATE DISTR. 18 October 1948

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE 25X1A

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The following presents a summary of the instructions given to local functionaries of the SED by a spokesman of the Central Secretariat. The meeting took place on 20 September 1948 on the premises of District Group No. 2 (Grunewald - Halensee).

1. In accordance with a recent resolution of the party, the Central Secretariat orders the immediate establishment of control commissions and investigating commissions.
2. The control commissions will devote themselves primarily to the intensification of party work. They will also secure the party from hostile elements and will identify individuals whose activities within the party might be open to suspicion.
3. In general the following rules should be followed:

- a. Intensification of party activity should be accomplished by personal propaganda among presently inactive party members. Candidates for official appointments within the party should be carefully selected to insure that only real "activists" shall become functionaries and by seeing to it that only those candidates for party membership should be admitted who proved themselves to be "activists" in the mass organizations (FDGB, VVN, Volkskongress, etc.).

- b. Party activities should be supervised through a strict control of the performance of functionaries, through detailed discussion and critique of personnel and organizational matters, and through concrete proposals to strengthen, and at the same time make more elastic, the training program.

- c. The establishment of absolutely correct and up-to-date personnel files is imperative. Each party member will have to fill out a new, detailed questionnaire. These questionnaires should be evaluated in detail and commented on by the local control commission. After review by the Kreis and Landesverband, the questionnaires will be forwarded to the Central Secretariat of the SED, which will be responsible for the Central Archives.

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Document No. 1
NO CHANGE in Class.
EX DECLASSIFIED
Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C
Auth: ODA Memo, 4 Apr 77
Auth: ODA REG. 77/1763
Date: 1 MAY 1984

Approved For Release 2001/03/05 : CIA-RDP82-00457R001900780004-6

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4. Among the particular responsibilities of local Control Commissions will be the formation of small, active groups which should be capable of immediate action. Their organization should be accomplished within the framework of the "Ten-man Group" system.

25X1A **Comment:** The "Ten-man Group" is one of the basic organizational units of the Communist Party. As observed in Hungary and Czechoslovakia, the "Ten-man Group" system offers greater functional efficiency in normal party work and provides a potential mechanism for militant functioning.)

5. Control commissions will be established at all organizational levels, from the House or Factory Block up to and including the Central Secretariat. The personnel for the control commissions should be selected on the following basis:

- a. House or Factory Block -- the three-man control commission should consist of one member of the House or Factory Block Executive Committee and two active party members who have no official positions in the party.
- b. City District -- the five-man control commission should consist of two members of the District Executive Committee and three members who have no official position on the District level but who must be functionaries on the local level.
- c. Kreisverband -- seven-man control commission, the organization of which was not discussed.
- d. Landesverband -- nine-man control commission.
- e. Central Secretariat -- fifteen-man control commission.

6. The investigating commissions should be regarded as Courts of Honor within the party. They will consist of seven members on the Kreis level, five of whom will be selected from activists in the House (or Factory) Blocks. They will handle and investigate all complaints against official or private activities of SED members. However, only party members will be entitled to register such complaints. Non-party members may be heard as witnesses. The investigating commissions should work in close cooperation with the control commissions.

7. Individual party members will be supervised by the control commission to whose parent organization they pay their dues. "It is to be hoped, however, that cooperation among party organizations will be improved to such extent that disputes about who controls whom will not arise."

25X1A **Comment:** The setting up of control and investigation commissions, the compiling of new personnel questionnaires, and the reorganizing of the Ten-man Groups, are believed to be the opening guns in a purge of the SED rank and file. A purge of functionaries down to the House and Factory Block level has been announced in the party, and this will be followed by a program to convert the SED from a mass party to a party of activists. The control commissions have been instructed to recommend for dismissal from the party not only members who are politically unreliable, but also those who are not suitable for revolutionary work. The reorganization of the Ten-man Groups is expected to move at a faster pace than the reorganization of the party itself and thus

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make available a tough core for use in the near future. [REDACTED] emphasizes that all these measures are still only in the talking stage, and must be viewed against a background of lethargy and despondency on all party levels below the Landesverband and Central Secretariat. It is extremely doubtful that the desired results can be achieved.)

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